



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :
Peter PÖCHLAUER et al. : Docket No. 2001-0331A
Serial No. 09/834,926 : Group Art Unit 1623
Filed April 16, 2001 : Examiner P. Zucker

PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF :
OPTICALLY AND CHEMICALLY :
HIGHLY PURE (R)- or :
(S)- α -HYDROXYCARBOXYLIC ACIDS :

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

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RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated August 10, 2001, please amend the present application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 to 10 without prejudice to the subject matter thereof and add the following claims in their place:

11. (New) A process for the preparation of optically and chemically highly pure (R)- and (S)- α -hydroxycarboxylic acids, which comprises recrystallizing impure (R)- and (S)- α -hydroxycarboxylic acids, prepared by acidic hydrolysis of the (R)- and (S)-cyanohydrins obtained by enzyme-catalyzed addition of a cyanide group to the corresponding aldehydes or ketones, in an aromatic hydrocarbon, optionally in the presence of a cosolvent, and obtaining optically and chemically highly pure (R)- and (S)- α -hydroxycarboxylic acids having an optical purity of over 98%ee.

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